

United States Government

Department of Energy  
Bonneville Power Administration

# memorandum

DATE: June 8, 2004

REPLY TO  
ATTN OF: KEC-4

SUBJECT: Supplement Analysis for the Watershed Management Program EIS (DOE/EIS-0265/SA-146)

to: Dorie Welch  
Fish and Wildlife Project Manager KEWU-4

**Proposed Action:** Grand Ronde Model Watershed Project - Catherine Creek Off-Channel Rearing Habitat Improvement

**Project No:** 1992-026-01

**Watershed Management Techniques or Actions Addressed Under This Supplement Analysis (See App. A of the Watershed Management Program EIS):**

- 1.6 Install large woody debris structures.
- 1.13 Culvert removal/replacement to improve fish passage.
- 1.17 Rearing habitat enhancements.

**Location:** Union, Union County, Oregon

**Proposed by:** Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) and the Grande Ronde Model Watershed Program (GRMWP).

**Description of the Proposed Action:** This project proposes to enhance off-channel rearing habitat in two ponds formerly used by the City of Union as a sediment settling facility for the City's water supply. Three to four feet of accumulated sediment will be removed from the ponds, two undersized culverts will be upsized and reinstalled, woody debris will be placed in the ponds, and a deteriorating concrete wall will be reinforced. The project will require close coordination with irrigators to maintain water supply as well as close supervision of the removal of any juvenile salmonids in the ponds just prior to construction.

**Analysis:** The compliance checklist for this project was completed by Lyle Kuchenbecker, Grande Ronde Model Watershed Program, and meets the standards and guidelines for the Watershed Management Program Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and Record of Decision (ROD).

A Biological Assessment was completed for the project and submitted to both the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and NOAA Fisheries for formal consultation on May 20, 2004. Based on the BA, BPA determined that the project may affect, but is not likely to adversely affect the bald eagle, and may adversely affect bull trout, Snake River spring chinook salmon, and Snake River steelhead. Determinations of no effect were made for Canada lynx, McFarlane's four o'clock,

and Spalding's catchfly. Consultation on the bald eagle, bull trout, chinook salmon, and steelhead will be completed prior to initiation of construction on the project.

Jerry Galm of Archaeological and Historical Services completed a cultural resources survey in the area of this project prior to the initial construction in 1995 (Cultural Resources Investigations at the Bonneville Power Administration's Catherine Creek Project, Union County, Oregon, April, 1995). No cultural resources deemed eligible for the National Register of Historic Properties were found. The area of construction for this project is the same. Letters have been sent to the State Historic Preservation Office and the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation documenting the previous survey and asking concurrence from the SHPO that no further action is needed. Concurrence will be obtained prior to initiation of construction.

The Grande Ronde Model Watershed Program is obtaining an Army Corps of Engineers Clean Water Act Section 404 permit and an Oregon Department of State Lands instream work permit for this project and will not begin construction until those permits are received.

The project has been reviewed and approved by the GRMWP Technical Committee and Board of Directors. The Board of Directors representation includes the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, Nez Perce and Umatilla Tribes, and the local government. Meetings of the Technical Committee and Board of Directors are open to the public and advertised in the local newspaper and on the radio. Individual projects, including this project, are discussed. Additionally this project will be input into the GRMWP database that is accessible to the public on the internet.

**Findings:** The project is generally consistent with the Northwest Power Planning Council's Fish and Wildlife Program, as well as BPA's Watershed Management Program EIS (DOE/EIS-0265) and ROD. This Supplement Analysis finds that: 1) implementing the proposed action will not result in any substantial changes to the Watershed Management Program that are relevant to environmental concerns; and 2) there are no significant new circumstances or information relevant to environmental concerns and bearing on the Watershed Management Program or its impacts. Therefore, no further NEPA documentation is required.

/s/ Nancy Weintraub 6-8-04

Nancy H. Weintraub

Environmental Specialist – KEC-4

CONCUR:

/s/ Thomas McKinney

Thomas C. McKinney

NEPA Compliance Officer – KEC-4

DATE: 6-8-04

**Attachments:**

Checklist

cc: (w/ attachments)

Mr. Lyle Kuchenbecker, Grande Ronde Model Watershed Project, 10901 Island Ave.,  
LaGrande, OR 97850